

External Provider Declaration

Welcome to **Djerriwarrh Community College (DCC)** and thank you for your interest working with our College.

DCC is an independent special assistance school based in Melton on Wurundjeri Country. The College delivers the Victorian Pathway Certificate (VPC) and VCE Victorian Major (VCE VM1&2) for students aged 15-19 years in small class-size settings.

Vision

Resilient young people navigating their lives with confidence.

Purpose

To provide environments, opportunities and experiences that enable young people to learn, thrive and connect.

As part of our whole-school approach fostering positive respectful relationships, we use all-inclusive language and provide all-enabling participation options.

We ask external providers to present activities that align with DCC vision and purpose by reflecting the following:

- Inviting participation but not calling on individuals or asking personal questions.
- Abstaining from using references to boys and girls.
- Using visuals, tactile activities and movement where possible.
- Recognising and accepting that some students don't feel comfortable working in groups and/or making use of staff members who can be grouped with students.
- Students are permitted and encouraged to use anxiety fidget toys and colouring activities to assist with self-regulation.
- Being mindful of trigger words or activities and that students may need breaks (students are empowered to follow pre-determined steps as part of support plans).
- Using language that is accessible to our cohort.

Members of staff are happy to arrange a meeting to present our premises and setting and to clarify any questions.

Child Safety

As of 1 January 2023, all Victorian schools are required to comply with the new Child Safe Standards (including Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises).

All staff, volunteers, contractors and external providers are required to be familiar with the content of the following DCC documents that are available on the College's website <https://www.dcc.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies/>:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Mandatory Reporting Policy
- Child Safety Reporting and Responding Procedure
- Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy
- Reportable Conduct Reporting Procedure
- Duty of Care Policy

If you would like a copy of these documents emailed to you, please email info@dcc.vic.edu.au requesting this information.

External providers working with our students have a moral and legal obligation and a duty of care to protect them from reasonably foreseeable harm and to report any incidents, disclosures, or suspicions of child abuse.

Child abuse includes any instance of physical or sexual abuse (including grooming), emotional or psychological harm, serious or significant neglect and family violence involving a child or young person.

External providers must:

- act as soon as they witness an incident, receive a disclosure, or form a reasonable belief that a student has, or is at risk of being abused, neglected, or exploited.
- act if they form a suspicion or reasonable belief, even if unsure and have not directly observed child abuse (e.g., if the victim or another person tells you about the abuse);
- make sufficient enquiries to form a reasonable belief and to determine a child's immediate needs.
- report any observations or suspicions of concerning behaviour to the DCC Principal or Assistant Principal.

If an external contractor believes that a student is not subject to abuse, but still holds significant concerns for their wellbeing they must still act. This may include making a referral or seeking advice from Child First (in circumstance where the family are open to receiving support) or to DFFH Child Protection or Victoria Police.

To ensure that the minimum standards for delivery of a senior secondary course will be met, and our mutual responsibilities are clear. Please complete the declaration below with your signature and return it by email to info@dcc.vic.edu.au

Declaration

I hereby acknowledge that have read and understood my responsibility to child safety at DCC.

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Organisation _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____